IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 25 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 24 and 27 as follows.

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by a second image sensing means to make panoramic image data, ~~wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving image data sensed at a first time instant $\underline{t1}$ from among a group of the first image data;

retrieving image data sensed at a second time instant $\underline{t2}$ from among a group of the second image data, where the second time instant $\underline{t2}$ is a time occurring after the first time instant $\underline{t1}$ by a time period corresponding to ~~the~~ $\underline{a}$ known distance $\underline{r}$ between the first image sensing means and the second image sensing means $\underline{so\ that\ t2 = t1 + r/v,\ wherein\ the\ first}$

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image sensing means and the second image sensing are arranged separately on a mobile object with the known distance r between them, the mobile object is moving in a moving direction with a velocity v, the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed; and

synthesizing the image data retrieved at the first time instant and the second time instant to make panoramic image data of a panoramic image from a location of the first image sensing means at the first time instant.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating where the image was sensed.

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by second image sensing means to make panoramic image data, ~~wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, wherein the first image sensing means is~~

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~~arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction~~

~~of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing~~

~~direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object,~~

~~and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when~~

~~the image data was sensed,~~ said apparatus comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a first time instant

t1 from among a group of the first image data;

second retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a second time

instant t2, ~~after a time corresponding to the known distance from the first time instant~~ from

among a group of the second image data, where the second time instant t2 is a time

occurring after the first time instant t1 by a time period corresponding to a known distance

r between the first image sensing means and the second image sensing means so that t2 =

t1 + r/v, wherein the first image sensing means and the second image sensing are arranged

separately on a mobile object with the known distance r between them, the mobile object is

moving in a moving direction with a velocity v, the first image sensing means is arranged

to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the

mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing

direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object,

and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when

the image data was sensed; and

synthesizing means for synthesizing the two retrieved image data to make

panoramic image data of a panoramic image from a location of the first image sensing

means at the first time instant.